



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Friday, July 14, 2006 – 06-040

District: District 2 - Redding

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Route 44 Project Near Shingletown to Begin Construction

REDDING – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will begin construction on a safety project located on State Route 44 near Ponderosa Way and about 2.5 miles west of Shingletown. The anticipated start date is July 24, 2006 with completion in October of this year.

The project includes the addition of eight-foot paved shoulders to each side of the highway and realignment of the horizontal and vertical alignments to bring the roadway up to current design standards. The roadway enhancements will provide flatter slopes for easier recovery in “run off the road” incidents. Improved roadway cut slopes will increase the site distance in the curved portions of the highway.

The removal of fixed objects, such as vegetation, rocks and utility poles will also help with recovery during run off the road situations and with the visibility of traffic when motorists are entering the highway from adjacent driveways. Visibility of wildlife will also be enhanced as motorists will be able to see the animals before they enter the roadway.

A left turn pocket will be constructed for eastbound traffic turning onto Road 100 and a new right turn lane will be developed for westbound traffic turning onto Ponderosa Way. The new roadway will be re-constructed and all drainage culverts will be replaced. The driveways and road connections will be re-constructed to match with the new roadway. In addition, a lighted chain installation area will be added.

Construction crews will work Monday through Friday between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. Traffic will be restricted to one lane during construction hours and controlled by pilot car and flaggers. In order to complete the project, the entire road surface will be removed. At that time, motorists will be traveling on an unpaved surface and traffic control will be in place 24 hours per day.

The contractor for the \$3,300,000 project is Meyers Earthwork of Redding.

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NOTE: An electronic version of this news release is available on the Internet at the following web address: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news_releases.htm

